Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-23 (cancelled)

Claim 24. (previously presented) A method for screening a plurality of compounds so as to identify compounds exhibiting anxiolytic activity, comprising:

a) determining *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} value for each compound at an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor;

b) determining *in vitro* efficacy values for each compound at a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 subunit or an α_5 subunit; and

c) identifying as exhibiting anxiolytic activity each compound having an EC_{50} value determined in a) of less than 200nM and an efficacy value measured in a) greater than the efficacy measured in b).

Claim 25. (original) The method of Claim 24 wherein the EC_{50} measured in step a) is less than 150 nM.

Claim 26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 25 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ receptor is greater than 20%.

Claim 27. (previously presented) The method of Claim 25 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ receptor is greater than 30%.

Claim 28. (original) The method of Claim 27 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of said α_1 or said α_5 subunit is less than 20%.

Claim 29. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ receptor is greater than 20%.

Claim 30. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ receptor is greater than 30%.

Claim 31. (original) The method of Claim 30 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of said α_1 or said α_5 subunit is less than 20%.

Claim 32. (original) The method of Claim 24 wherein the $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of said α_1 subunit is an $\alpha_1\beta_2\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor or the $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of said α_5 subunit is an $\alpha_5\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor.

Claim 33. (previously presented) A method for screening for compounds having anxiolytic activity, comprising:

a) selecting a compound having a binding affinity less than 100 nM at any $GABA_A$ receptor;

b) measuring *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} values for each compound at an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ receptor;

c) measuring *in vitro* efficacy values for each compound at a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 or α_5 subunit; and

d) selecting a compound having an EC_{50} value measured in b) of less than 200nM and an efficacy value measured in b) greater than the efficacy measured in c).

Claim 34. (currently amended) A method for screening compounds so as to select at least one compound having anxiolytic activity, comprising:

a) measuring *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} values for each compound at an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor;

b) measuring *in vitro* efficacy for each compound at a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 or α_5 subunit;

c) measuring *in vivo* effects of each compound in an animal model indicative of anxiolytic activity;

d) measuring *in vivo* effects of each compound in an animal model indicative of sedative effects; and

e) selecting each compound having: an EC_{50} value measured in a) of less than 200nM, an efficacy value measured in a) greater than the efficacy measured in step b), a statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) positive effect in the animal model indicative of anxiolytic activity, and no statistically significant effect in the animal model indicative of sedative effects.

Claim 35. (previously presented) A method for screening a plurality of compounds so as to identify at least one compound having anxiolytic activity, comprising:

a) selecting a compound having a binding affinity less than 100 nM at any $GABA_A$ receptor;

b) measuring *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} values for each selected compound at an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ receptor;

c) measuring *in vitro* efficacy for each selected compound at a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 or α_5 subunit;

d) measuring *in vivo* effects of each selected compound in an animal model indicative of anxiolytic activity;

e) measuring *in vivo* effect of each selected compound in an animal model indicative of sedative effects; and

f) selecting a compound having: an EC_{50} value measured in b) of less than 200nM, an efficacy measured in ~~e)~~ b) greater than the efficacy measured in c), a statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) positive effect in the animal model indicative of anxiolytic activity, and no statistically significant effect in the animal indicative of sedative effects.

Claims 36-50 (cancelled)

Claim 51. (currently amended) The method of Claim 24, comprising:

a) determining *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} value for each compound at an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor and an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor;

b) determining *in vitro* efficacy values for each compound at a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 subunit or an α_5 subunit; and

c) identifying as exhibiting anxiolytic activity each compound having

an EC_{50} value at an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor of less than 200nM;

an EC_{50} value at an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor of less than 200nM;

an efficacy value at an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor greater than the efficacy measured in b); and

an efficacy value at an ~~$\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$~~ $\underline{\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2}$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor greater than the efficacy measured in b).

Claim 52. (previously presented) The method of Claim 50 wherein the *in vitro* efficacy measured at said $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ and said $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ receptor is greater than 20%.

Claim 53. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, comprising:

a) selecting a compound having a binding affinity less than 100 nM at any $GABA_A$ receptor;

b) measuring *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} values for each compound at an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ and an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ receptor;

c) measuring *in vitro* efficacy values for each compound at a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 or α_5 subunit; and

d) selecting a compound having EC_{50} values measured in b) of less than 200nM and an efficacy values measured in b) greater than the efficacy measured in c).

Claim 54. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, comprising:

a) measuring *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} values for each compound at an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor and an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ subtype receptor;

b) measuring *in vitro* efficacy for each compound at a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 or α_5 subunit;

c) measuring *in vivo* effects of each compound in an animal model indicative of anxiolytic activity;

d) measuring *in vivo* effects of each compound in an animal model indicative of sedative effects; and

e) selecting each compound having: EC_{50} values measured in a) of less than 200nM, efficacy values measured in a) greater than the efficacy measured in step b), a statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) positive effect in the animal model indicative of anxiolytic activity, and no statistically significant effect in the animal indicative of sedative effects.

Claim 55. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, comprising:

a) selecting a compound having a binding affinity less than 100 nM at any $GABA_A$ receptor;

b) measuring *in vitro* efficacy and EC_{50} values for each selected compound at an $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$ and an $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$ $GABA_A$ receptor;

c) measuring *in vitro* efficacy for each selected compound at a $GABA_A$ receptor comprised of an α_1 or α_5 subunit;

d) measuring *in vivo* effects of each selected compound in an animal model indicative of anxiolytic activity;

e) measuring *in vivo* effect of each selected compound in an animal model indicative of sedative effects; and

f) selecting a compound having: EC_{50} values measured in b) of less than 200nM, an efficacy measured in b) greater than the efficacy measured in c), a statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) positive effect in the animal model indicative of anxiolytic activity, and no statistically significant effect in the animal indicative of sedative effects.